

ACTION

April 30, 1969

~~TOP SECRET/SENSITIVE~~OSD, NSS,
Review Complete

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

FROM: Henry A. Kissinger

SUBJECT: Protective Measures in Support of the Conduct
of Reconnaissance Operations Targeted on
North Korea

The 303 Committee, at a meeting today, considered various options for the conduct of Combat Air Patrol (CAP) operations in support of U.S. reconnaissance aircraft subject to threat by North Korean aircraft.

The Committee examined, inter alia, the issue of how far CAP aircraft should be permitted to operate from the Chinese and Soviet coasts.

The following options were considered: (see attached map)

1. Restricting CAP aircraft to a distance no less than 200 nautical miles from the Chinese and Soviet coasts. (Reconnaissance aircraft are limited to 50 nautical miles).

Discussion: Such a restriction would deprive U.S. reconnaissance missions of CAP support during a large portion of their transit along the coasts of North Korea. If we should impose this limitation, but are unwilling to run the risk of flying unprotected aircraft, the alternative is to discontinue reconnaissance missions north of a line 200 miles from the Chinese and Soviet coasts. This would deprive us of access to most of the northeast and all of the northwest coasts of North Korea.

2. Restrict CAP aircraft to a distance of 100 nautical miles from the Chinese and Soviet coasts.

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Discussion: The same disadvantages would apply, although to a lesser degree.

3. Restricting CAP aircraft to a distance of 50 nautical miles from the Soviet, North Korean and Chinese coasts. This restriction would coincide with the 50 nautical mile limitation placed on reconnaissance aircraft.

Discussion: Protection of reconnaissance aircraft at most points along their track would be assured under this option.

It should be noted that, in accordance with previously approved rules of engagement, should North Korean, CHICOM or Soviet aircraft convey -- through their actions -- an intention to engage our reconnaissance flights, CAP aircraft are permitted to engage and pursue to their respective coastlines but not beyond.

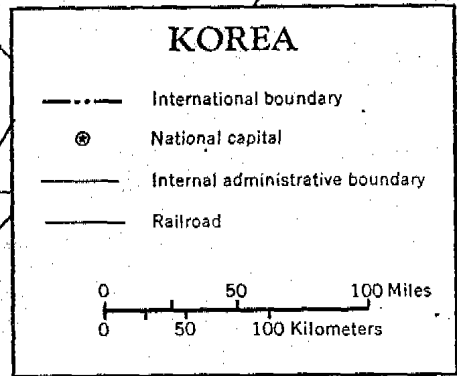
Approve Option 1 _____

Approve Option 2 _____

Approve Option 3 _____

Attachment

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CTS-HK-E10 62,
Apr 30, '64

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April 30, 1969

MEMORANDUM FOR: The Secretary of State
The Secretary of Defense
The Director of Central Intelligence

SUBJECT: U. S. Fighter Aircraft Operating as
Combat Air Patrol in Support of
Reconnaissance Missions Targeted
on North Korea

The President has authorized U. S. fighter aircraft operating as Combat Air Patrol in support of reconnaissance missions targeted on North Korea to approach up to, but no closer than, 50 NM of the North Korean, Soviet or Chinese Communist coast lines. This restriction does not apply in the event U. S. reconnaissance aircraft are in imminent danger of attack, in which case approved rules of engagement apply.

The President has directed that the Secretary of Defense be responsible for the immediate implementation of his directive associated with the resumption of scheduled reconnaissance in the Pacific area and desires that the Secretary of Defense insure coordination with other responsible departments and agencies, including necessary clearances so that scheduled reconnaissance operations can be resumed with minimum delay.

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Henry A. Kissinger

cc: Chairman, Joint Chiefs of Staff

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